

Predictions: God's Party Invitations

"All I Want For Christmas", Part 1 of 3
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come... Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find ... For many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:2-3,9,14, NIV)

"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you will give Him the name Jesus..." 'How will this be?' Mary asked." (Luke 1:31-34, NIV)

3 Key Predictions Of Christ's Birth That God Uses As Personal Invitations To The Greatest Christmas Party Ever! (from Isaiah 7, 9, 11)

Prediction #1: The METHOD Of Jesus Christ's Birth.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14, NIV)

"[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus...' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'... **'God with us.'**" (Matthew 1:20-23, NIV)

*Party Invite: He can SUPPORT US in challenging times.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16, NIV)

Prediction #2: The MEANING Of Jesus Christ's Birth.

"...as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people...with justice and faithfulness."

(Isaiah 11:1-2,5, TEV & NIV)

"...Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David..."

(Matthew 1:1, TEV)

*Party Invite: He can PROTECT US in threatening times.

"For God has said, 'I will never, never fail you nor forsake you' That is why we can say without any doubt or fear, 'The Lord is my Helper and I am not afraid of anything.'" (Hebrews 13:5b-6, LB)

Prediction #3: The MESSAGE Of Jesus Christ's Birth.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned... For to us a child is born... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2,6, NIV)

"[Jesus left Nazareth]...to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: '...the people living in darkness have seen a great light...' (Matthew 4:14-16, NIV)

*Party Invite: He can DIRECT US in uncertain times.

Jesus: "I have come as a Light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in the darkness." (John 12:46, LB)

"Imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God." (Luke 15:8-10, The Message)

*If God has the power to fulfill PREDICTIONS, He has the power to fulfill PEOPLE.